

# ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

A Newsletter from the Office of L&I Chief Electrical Inspector Wayne Molesworth

March 2024

## Question of the Month:

What is the most significant change in the 2023 NEC?

See the answer at the bottom of page 2.

## 2023 NEC and WAC 296-46B to be Effective April 1, 2024

The WAC 296-46B revision process with adoption of the 2023 National Electrical Code (NEC) is complete. The director signed the CR-103 rulemaking order on February 21, 2024. The 2023 NEC and revised WAC 296-46B will be effective April 1, 2024.

Generally, new codes and rules will apply if the electrical permit is issued on or after the adoption date with two exceptions: (a) New one- and two-family dwellings or multifamily dwellings where the issue date of building permits for the premises is before the adoption date; or (b) New installations where plan review is required by WAC 296-46B-900 when plans are received and accepted for review before the adoption date.

You can review a copy of the revised rules on the [Rule Development](#) page of our website.

Soon, a special edition of this newsletter will be published which will highlight significant changes. The exam will be updated to the 2023 NEC hopefully at the end of 2024. Stay tuned for further announcements in this newsletter.

## 2023 Rulemaking Update - Fee Increase

We are proposing a 6.40% fee increase to support operating expenses for electrical inspections and other electrical public safety activities. The increase is the Office of Financial Management's maximum allowable fiscal growth factor rate for fiscal year 2025.

We held a public hearing on the proposed rules on Jan. 26, 2024. Learn more on our [Rule Development](#) page.

Here is what happens next:

- March 19, 2024: CR-103 to be signed by director and new fee rules are adopted.
- July 1, 2024: New fees tentatively become effective.
- Fees will increase on the effective date.

Sections affected by this rule making are 296-46B-906, 296-46B-909, and 296-46B-911. The fee for a RCW or WAC printed document has been deleted. Electronic copies are available for printing on our [Electrical Laws & Rules](#) webpage.

## Safety Tip of the Month

Safety Tip of the Month!

Protect yourself, your family, and your investment – Make certain you hire a legitimate licensed electrical contractor who:

- Uses certified electricians and;
- Gets the work inspected.

Check your contractor's and electrician's status at: <https://secure.lni.wa.gov/verify/>

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## Marking requirements for service rated splices and taps delayed until July 1, 2025

Requirements in NEC 230.46 state pressure connectors and devices for splices and taps installed on service conductors shall be marked as “suitable for use on the line side of the service equipment” or equivalent. Due to a lack of listed products with markings that meet this requirement, the department is delaying enforcement of this article until July 1, 2025 unless the industry needs additional time beyond that date to produce compliant products.

## Sealing Locknuts and Conduit Fittings

NEC 312.2(A) requires enclosures installed in wet locations be weatherproof. Raceways or cables entering these enclosures **above the level of uninsulated live parts** must use fittings listed for wet locations. Watertight connections are necessary (and required) in areas when gravity could lead water directly to live parts. Fittings supplied with a weatherproof enclosure by the manufacturer are approved for the intended use. Field-installed weatherproof hubs (i.e. Myers hubs) are expensive and many installers opt for sealing locknuts to maintain the weatherproof integrity of the enclosure.

Sealing locknuts are intended for use with **threaded rigid metal conduit and intermediate metal conduit only**. On a conduit entering perpendicular to the enclosure surface they are to be installed with one sealing locknut on the outside or the inside with an ordinary locknut or sealing locknut on the opposite side of the enclosure to maintain the weatherproof integrity.

**Rigid nonmetallic conduit (PVC) terminal adapters are not suitable for use with sealing locknuts.** PVC entries into weatherproof enclosures above the level of uninsulated live parts must be made with fittings listed for the purpose.

## Training Hour Appeals Receive a Fresh Look Update

The effort to create a new review of training hour decisions continues! Since last month’s *Currents*, there has been more work on developing the process. Tentative plans call for a spring rollout.

The new process provides customers an opportunity to seek reconsideration of denied training hours. It **only** involves denied training hours. The process to report hours of experience will remain the same.

We’ll continue to publish new information in *Currents*. Send questions to [HoursReconsideration@lni.wa.gov](mailto:HoursReconsideration@lni.wa.gov).

**Answer to the Question of the Month:** The most significant change to the NEC would depend on what part of the industry you partake in at any given time. If you have not done so, now is a great time to take advantage of a 2023 NEC update class. All 2020 NEC code update classes are set to expire on March 31 due to adoption of 2023 NEC on April 1, 2024. No one loses credit for a 2020 NEC update class completed before April 1. You can find approved continuing education and basic classroom training classes on the [Basic Classroom Instruction & Continuing Education \(wa.gov\)](#) page of our website.

**Picture of the Month:** *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.* An electrical inspector found this panel change during an inspection. The open splices above the panel, no conduit system for the single conductors, and blank panel schedule were just the beginning of the problems with this installation.



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